

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/691,936	MCERLEAN, PATRICK
	Examiner Marc D. Thompson	Art Unit 2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the response received 3/19/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. The drawings filed on 19 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper Nos <u>20040113</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material <u>20040812</u> <u>20040929</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

MARC D. THOMPSON

MARC THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claimed invention describes the classification of messages in a networking environment where agents having the capability to process these messages are listed and available as members in a directory, where the agent(s) process the message(s), reporting the processing of the message(s) in respect to at least one message class defined in a set, and assignment of further processing agent(s) for message routing and processing when message(s) have not been processed in respect to one or more message classes in the set. This provides for reliable confirmable processing of messages in regard to each and every classification and associated processing for each message class by any and all appropriate message processing agent(s) as interpreted in light of the supporting portions of the specification, *inter alia*, at Page 5, Lines 13-23, Page 12, Line 5 through Page 13, Line 18, and Page 17, Line 27 through Page 20, Line 28. The additional presumption of invocation of "means plus function" language in the respective claims reciting such language, provides yet another layer of distinguishing feature(s) to the claimed invention when imparting specific structure of the overall system and system components with the details of the disclosed operation and hardware detailed in the specification. Lastly, this described functionality was persuasively argued as distinguishing from the applied prior art of record in the latest response, received 3/19/2004, and the claimed details of this express functionality is also considered to distinguish above the prior art cited on the numerous information disclosure statements and the notice of references cited, all of which accompany this action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Marc D. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-3932. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski, Jr. can be reached at 571-272-3925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned remains 703-872-9306.

3. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MARC D. THOMPSON
MARC THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Marc D. Thompson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2144